



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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AGENDA DATE: September 2, 2009

TO: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

FROM: Front Country Trails Task Force Staff

SUBJECT: **Front Country Trails Maintenance Update**

RECOMMENDATION: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a status report on FCT trail maintenance projects.

DISCUSSION:

This staff report provides information on the upcoming trails maintenance activities, including National Public Lands Day on September 26, Rattlesnake Trail maintenance, Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessment and prescription for trails, trails maintenance volunteer training on October 17, 2009, and Forest Service-funded trails work with the California Conservation Corps from October – November. FCT staff is also coordinating with the Santa Barbara Flood Control District on the hydro-mulching project.

National Public Lands Day – September 26, 2009

National Public lands Day is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation. Initiated in 1994, National Public Lands Day fosters volunteerism to improve public lands throughout the country (<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>). San Ysidro Trail is scheduled for a volunteer trail maintenance work day as part of National Public Lands Day. San Ysidro Trail was selected since it is outside the Jesusita burn area, and therefore, trail maintenance work will not conflict with the hydro-mulching project. Volunteers will meet at Skofield Park for orientation.

Rattlesnake Trail

The City of Santa Barbara has a National Emergency Grant (NEG) to implement restoration and rehabilitation projects in Parma Park and on Rattlesnake Trail. The grant provides funding for temporary workers to implement trail and habitat restoration projects through December 2009. The Forest Service provided basic trail maintenance techniques and procedures, and trail water drainage feature construction and

maintenance to the NEG workers. From September to October, the NEG workers will complete trail improvements to prepare the trail bed for winter rain.

BAER Assessment and Prescription for Trails

The implementation of the BAER assessment and prescription for trails within the Jesusita Fire perimeter will begin on October 13, 2009. Garrett Villnueva, Forest Engineer from Lake Tahoe Management Basin and a Trail Construction Specialist, will make a scheduled two-week visit to Santa Barbara. Mr. Villnueva will conduct trail surveys and trail logs on the trails affected by the Jesusita fire. Part of this work includes providing the GPS locations with the necessary prescriptions for constructing and maintaining water diversion structures.

Volunteer Training – October 17, 2009

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, Mr. Villnueva will provide training for volunteer trail leaders and other interested volunteers, on the best construction measures to minimize damage from water run off in the burn area.

California Conservation Corps

On October 20, 2009, the California Conservation Corps will begin three weeks of trail reconstruction to implement the prescribed BAER measures. Mr. Villnueva will provide the crew with specific water diversion structure training.

Hydro Mulching

FCT staff has been working with Santa Barbara County Flood Control to identify the trails that are located in the hydro-mulch project area. Trails will be closed to public access during the hydro-mulching project. Whether some or all of the trails will remain closed after the hydro-mulch application and BAER trail work projects will depend on the outcomes of the projects and wet weather considerations.

Public Information

The Forest Service, County, and City will continue to coordinate closely and communicate with the public about trail access and safety issues through the 2009/2010 wet weather season. Public information will include press releases, web site updates, trailhead signage, and email notices to trails stakeholder groups and other interested parties.

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Kellogg, Recreation Specialist, Los Padres National Forest